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Economic and Social Council

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E/CN.6/1997/L.8
18 March 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
Forty-first session
10-21 March 1997
Agenda item 5

CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN, INCLUDING THE ELABORATION OF A DRAFT OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE CONVENTION

Draft resolution submitted by the Chairperson of the Open-ended Working Group on the Elaboration of a Draft Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, on the basis of informal consultations

Renewal of the mandate of the Open-ended Working Group on the Elaboration of a Draft Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/29 of 24 July 1995 and Commission resolution 40/8 of 22 March 1996,

Noting the progress achieved by the in-session Open-ended Working Group on the Elaboration of a Draft Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,

1. Takes note of the reports of the Secretary-General containing a comparative summary of existing communications and inquiry procedures and practices under international human rights instruments and under the Charter of the United Nations[1] and additional views of Governments, intergovernmental

[1] E/CN.6/1997/4.

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organizations and non-governmental organizations on an optional protocol to the Convention,[2] which were before the Working Group;

2. Commends the representative of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on her contribution to the work of the Working Group;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-second session a report containing an annotated comparison of the draft optional protocol and the proposed amendments thereto with the provisions of existing international human rights instruments;

4. Recommends that the Economic and Social Council adopt the draft decision entitled "Renewal of the mandate of the Open-ended Working Group on the Elaboration of a Draft Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women", contained in the annex to the present resolution.

Annex

RENEWAL OF THE MANDATE OF THE OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON THE ELABORATION OF A DRAFT OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

The Economic and Social Council decides:

(a) To renew the mandate of the in-session Open-ended Working Group on the Elaboration of a Draft Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, so that it may continue its work, pursuant to Council resolution 1995/29 of 24 July 1995, during the forty-second and forty-third sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women;

(b) To authorize the Working Group to meet in parallel with the Commission at its forty-second and forty-third sessions;

(c) To invite a representative of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to attend these meetings as a resource person.

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[2] E/CN.6/1997/5.

[1] See the report of Commission on the Status of Women on its forty-first session.

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COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
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Agenda item 3 (a)

FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN:
REVIEW OF MAINSTREAMING IN ORGANIZATIONS OF THE
UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

United States of America: draft resolution

Humanitarian assistance: mainstreaming a gender perspective

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Guided by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] including the principle of equal rights of men and women,

Reaffirming that human rights are women's rights and women's rights are human rights,

Reaffirming also the equal right of women and men and girls and boys to participate fully in political and economic life, including their equal right to pursue educational, employment and other opportunities,

Reaffirming further the United Nations system-wide policy on gender equality,

Recognizing the importance of women in all phases of development and humanitarian assistance, such as education, health care and food distribution,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the United Nations, including all its subsidiary bodies and agencies, designs and implements its programmes and assistance without discrimination against women, in accordance

[1] General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

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with the Charter of the United Nations, international human rights law, and other principles relevant to the advancement of women;

2. Also requests the Secretary-General to ensure that all United Nations-assisted programmes are formulated in such a way as to promote the full participation of women in all aspects of those programmes, including design, management, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, as well as increase the number of female beneficiaries and participants;

3. Further requests the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-second session on the delivery of humanitarian assistance from a gender perspective.

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COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
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Agenda item 3 (c)

FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN:
IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND ACTION
IN THE CRITICAL AREAS OF CONCERN

Bangladesh*, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic and Philippines:
draft resolution

Violence against women migrant workers

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Bearing in mind the Charter of the United Nations, which reaffirms faith in human rights and fundamental freedoms, in the dignity and worth of the human person, and in the equal rights of women and men,

Reaffirming the principles set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[2]

Reaffirming also General Assembly resolutions 47/96 of 16 December 1992, 48/110 of 20 December 1993, 49/165 of 23 December 1994, 50/168 of 22 December 1995 and 51/65 of 12 December 1996 and Commission on the Status of Women resolutions 38/7 of 18 March 1994, 39/7 of 31 March 1995 and 40/6 of

* In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

[1] General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

[2] General Assembly resolution 34/180.

22 March 1996, as well as the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women adopted by the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session,[1]

Recalling the conclusions and recommendations made by recent international conferences, including the World Conference on Human Rights, held in Vienna in June 1993, the International Conference on Population and Development, held in Cairo in September 1994, the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen in March 1995, and the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in September 1995, on the promotion and protection of the rights and fundamental freedoms of women, in particular women migrant workers,

Acknowledging the valuable contribution made by concerned intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to the promotion and protection of the rights and fundamental freedoms of women migrant workers,

Noting the large numbers of women from developing countries and from some countries with economies in transition who continue to venture forth to more affluent countries in search of a living for themselves and their families, as a consequence of poverty, unemployment and other socio-economic conditions,

Recognizing that it is the duty of sending countries to protect and promote the interests of their citizens who seek or receive employment in other countries, to provide them with appropriate training/education and to apprise them of their rights and obligations in the countries of employment,

Aware of the moral obligations of receiving or host countries to ensure the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all persons within their boundaries, including women migrant workers, who are doubly vulnerable because of their gender and their being foreigners,

Noting the measures adopted by some receiving States to alleviate the plight of women migrant workers residing within their areas of jurisdiction,

Noting with concern, however, the continuing reports of grave abuses and acts of violence committed against women migrant workers by some of their employers in some host countries,

Stressing that acts of violence directed against women impair or nullify women's enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Recalling the decision of the Commission at its fortieth session to consider as part of its work programme for 1998 the issues of women's human rights, violence against women, women in armed conflicts, and the girl child, in line with the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action,

1. Welcomes the convening of the United Nations Expert Group meeting on Violence against Women Migrant Workers in Manila, from 27 to 31 May 1996;

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[1] General Assembly resolution 48/104.

2. Decides to consider the report of the Expert Group Meeting,[4] as well as the reports/recommendations of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on Violence Women, the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, including its Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, concerned agencies and bodies of the United Nations system and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations on the issue of violence against women migrant workers, at its forty-second session, in 1998, and to submit its report and recommendations thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session.

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[4] A/51/325, annex.